[24th December 1956

Oil deposits

* 414 *Q.*—Sri N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have carried out any survey of oil deposits in this State; and

(*b*) if so, the results thereof?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Do not arise.

Sri S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : Some time ago it was stated that the Cauvery bed and the delta of some of the rivers in our State have deposits. I would like to know whether the Hon. Minister is aware of this information?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir. The question of further investigation is being examined.

Sri R. V. SWAMINATHAN : We read in the newspapers now and then that oil deposit is available here and there in Tamilnad. May I know whether the Government have got any clear idea about the availability of oil deposits in Tamilnad for exploitation and whether there is any possibility of conducting a survey in this matter?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : There is likely to be oil deposit in certain areas and therefore the Government are taking up this matter, and they are going into the investigation of this question.

Sri S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : If the Hon. Minister is aware of the oil deposits in our State, what steps have been taken to exploit those oil resources?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have already answered that I am getting this investigated by the Geological Survey of India.

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

Exemption of ' Porikadalai ' from sales tax

* 415 *Q.*—Sri K. T. RAJU (on behalf of Sri N. K. Palanisamy) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received during the month of September 1956 a memorandum from the Madurainagar Porikadalai Viaparigal Sangam, Madurai, to include the ' Porikadalai ' industry as a cottage industry and to exempt it from sales tax; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) The representation from the Madurai Nagar Porikadalai Viaparigal Sangam was received in October 1956.